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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 01376 071236Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SSO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /135 W
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R 071200Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2225
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANAA
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E.O. 11652: C/A
TAGS: PFOR ET SO US

SUBJ: GSDR PROTESTS US STATEMENTS ON SOMALI BASES AND ETHIOPIA

1. ACTING FONSEC ABDURAHMAN SEPT 7 GAVE ME NOTE VERBALE LODGING "STRONGEST PROTEST" WITH USG, DENYING THAT USSR HAS ANY BASES IN SOMALIA AND STATING THAT PRESIDENT OBVIOUSLY "MISINFORMED" ON THIS POINT. NOTE CRITICIZES US PLANS TO ESTABLISH BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA AND CHARACTERIZES AS EXAMPLE OF "INVARIABLY HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF USA" DEPT. SPOKESMAN'S ACCEPTANCE OF ETHIOPIA'S CLAIMS TO OGADEN. TEXT OF NOTE SEPTEL (NOTEL).

2. ABDURAHMAN IN PRESENTING AND SUMMARIZING NOTE SAID GSDR USED TO VARIOUS CLAIMS ABOUT SOVIET BASES FROM PRESS BUT NOT FROM US GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN. PURPOSE OF OUR PROPOGANDA ON BASES CLEARLY TWO-FOLD -- TO BLACKEN SOMALIA AND TO JUSTIFY OUR DIEGO
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GARCIA PLANS. ABDURAHMAN DEFINED "BASE" AS AREA OVER WHICH HOST COUNTRY HAS NO CONTROL AND TO WHICH OCCUPYING POWER HAS FREE

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ACCESS. THIS IS NOT RPT NOT TRUE AT BERBERA. SOVIETS ENJOY OCCASIONAL USE OF BERBERA AS THEY DO OTHER TERRITORIES. THERE ARE NO SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED AT BERBERA. HE ASKED WHY I DID NOT RPT NOT GO TO BERBERA TO SEE FOR MYSELF.

3. I REVIEWED ACCOUNTS OF SOVIET INSTALLATIONS IN BERBERA AS THEY HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO CONGRESS MANY TIMES. I SAID EXISTENCE OF THESE WAS WELL-KNOWN -- IF THEY DID NOT CONSTITUTE "BASE" IN HIS VIEW THAT WAS MERELY QUESTION OF SEMANTICS. FACT REMAINS THAT THESE INSTALLATIONS ARE THERE.

4. ABDURAHMAN THEN SAID GSDR AWARE OF LONG-STANDING US MILITARY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA. WHAT THEY FOUND INCOMPREHENSIBLE WAS DEPT STATEMENT THAT THESE ARMS BEING SENT TO HELP ETHIOPIA DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST SOMALI CLAIMS TO ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY. DIPLOMATIC COURTESY, IF NOTHING ELSE, SHOULD HAVE PREVENTED US FROM PUBLICLY ACCEPTING ETHIOPIAN POSITION IN ITS DISPUTE WITH SOMALIA. US ATTITUDE WAS NOT RPT NOT CONDUCIVE TO RELAXATION OF TENSION IN HORN.

5. I NOTED THAT DEPT SPOKESMAN HAD SAID THAT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, "HAVING NOTED THAT SOMALIA PUBLICLY CLAIMS CERTAIN AREAS OF ETHIOPIA", CAME TO US FOR ASSISTANCE. THIS WAS DIFFERENT THAN A US ENDORSEMENT OF ETHIOPIAN POSITION. US WAS NOW RPT NOW AND HAD LONG BEEN IN FAVOR OF PEACE IN HORN. US ARMS ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN AND IS NOT RPT NOT NOW FOR AGGRESSIVE PURPOSES. RECENT INCREASE IN SOMALIA ARMS INVENTORY HAD CAUSED GREAT CONCERN IN ETHIOPIA AND RECENT US ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ETHIOPIA WERE IN RESPONSE TO THAT CONCERN.

6. ABDURAHMAN SAID THESE MATTERS WERR EXAMPLES OF US REFUSAL RESPOND TO SOMALI EFFORTS SINCE REVOLUTION TOWARD GOOD RELATIONS WITH U.S. I SAID US HAD LONG DESIRED AND STILL DESIRES GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA. HOWEVER OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA IS ONE OF LONG STANDING AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE. ABDURAHMAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS. I SAID WE WANT GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. ABDURAHMAN ASKED IF I FELT WE COULD HAVE GOOD RELATIONS IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. I SAID I DID AND WOULD WORK TO THAT END.
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7. COMMENT: NOTE ABOUT WHAT COULD BE EXPECTED. IT CAREFULLY AVOIDS CRITICISM PRESIDENT BY SAYING HE MERELY "MISINFORMED." REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH PROPAGANDA WILL BE MADE ABOUT THIS AND IF IT AFFECTS OUR RELATIONS IN OTHER FIELDS. SOMALIS ARE VERY SENSITIVE ON THIS QUESTION OF "BASES" BUT IT IS NOT RPT NOT IN THEIR INTEREST TO CLOSE DOOR ENTIRELY ON US. DO NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO PICK UP ABDURAHMAN'S CHALLENGE AND GO TO BERBERA. SUCH A TRIP WOULD HAVE NO REAL ADVANTAGE AND MANY POTENTIAL PITFALLS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOTE VERBALE, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOGADI01376
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740249-0587
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740966/aaaacdna.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GSDR PROTESTS US STATEMENTS ON SOMALI BASES AND ETHIOPIA
TAGS: PFOR, US, SO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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